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NSC BRIEFING

23 February 1955

COMMENT ON PHIBUN'S STATEMENT  
REGARDING THREAT FROM YUNNAN

- I. Premier Phibun's allegation that a 20,000-man army under Pridi in southern Yunnan is poised against Thailand appears to be greatly exaggerated.
  - A. Pridi not connected with Thai Autonomous Area in South Yunnan.
  - B. Several reports suggest "Free Thai Movement" may be developing in area, but only in incipient stage.
  - C. In past six months, Prince Wan has played up threat of Autonomous Area on basis of Thai intelligence, but have been very low level and often contradictory.

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E. 100 miles rugged, jungle-covered mountains separate south Yunnan from Thailand.

F. Best, and obvious, way to attack Thailand is through Laos.

II. Premier's statement undoubtedly intended to advance main Thai policy objectives.

A. Concrete Western guarantee of Thailand.

B. Formation of SEATO army and bases in Thailand.

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